

Claims

1) A constrained document server, comprising:

a database of documents and of constraints associated with each document;
and software comprising two components:

one component which receives queries from clients via some interface, and for each query searches the documents and identifies potentially matching documents;
and a second component which extracts from the documents that were identified by the first component pieces of texts which match the query, and also checks that the amount of text in the extracts from each document does not exceed the constraints which are associated with this document.

2) A server as in Claim 1, where the constraints are specified by constraint expressions, each expression constructed by logical conjunction of primitive constraints, and each primitive constraint specifies the maximum amount of text that the client is allowed to receive from each segment in a specific block in the document.

3) A server as in any preceding claim, where the documents are kept as collections of smaller pieces of text.

4) A server as in any preceding claim, where each document is associated with more than one constraint expression, where each expression specifies the constraints for a different level of service.

5) A constraint document server as described hereinbefore.